

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date
Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Time
3:00 p.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Dennis Thompson, Chair
David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-elect
Mick Zais, PhD
State Superintendent of Education
Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

SBE Mission: The State Board of Education's mission is to provide a leadership role in helping South Carolina set policy and direction to transform teaching and learning so that students are prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills, including innovation, to compete globally and live a productive life.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education meeting convened at 3:50 p.m. Chair Thompson called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance: Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-elect, Fourth Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, EdD, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Barry Bolen, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brennan, Governor's Appointee.

The Sixth Judicial Circuit was not represented as no one has been appointed to replace Josie Gaston, who resigned in December 2011.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Mick Zais, PhD, State Superintendent of Education; Scott English, Chief Operating Officer; Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness; Jay W. Ragley, Director, Legislative and Public Affairs; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Nancy Busbee, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON MAY 9, 2012

Chair Thompson asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes for the SBE Meeting on May 9, 2012, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JULY 11, 2012

Chair Thompson stated that he would like to amend the agenda for the SBE Meeting on July 11, 2012, as follows: In section VIII, STATE BOARD ITEMS, PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE, move these items ahead of the other committees. The SBE needs to address the PL Committee items in this section before any other committee items and address PL items 06 and 07 first.

Dr. Blackmon moved to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and carried.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Thompson welcomed all visitors, including news media.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION RECOGNITIONS

State Superintendent of Education Zais recognized the winners of the 2012 State Board of Education Volunteer Awards. This is a state-sponsored program that promotes volunteerism in schools. School districts across the state submit nominations and award recipients are selected from district nominees by the State Board of Education Volunteer Awards Nominating Committee.

The winners are as follows:

- Santee Cooper/Jefferies Generating Station (Business Category)

Santee Cooper/Jefferies Generating Station, in the Berkeley County School District, was nominated by Macedonia Middle School and is represented on the SBE by Larry Kobrovsky. The partnership between the Jefferies Generating Station and Macedonia Middle began in May 2000 with the goal of ensuring a successful transition from elementary school to high school. Jefferies contributions range from offering academic assistance, collecting “back-to-school” supplies for needy children, and assisting with the school’s career fair. The “Lunch Buddy Program,” which pairs approximately 30 students with Jefferies employees in a mentoring relationship, has increased student grades and improved attendance. Jefferies also sponsors teacher recognition projects, such as a luncheon, delivering homemade treats, and purchasing supplies for the classroom.

- The Reserve at Lake Keowee (Civic Organization Category)

The Reserve at Lake Keowee, in the Pickens County School District, was nominated by A.R. Lewis Elementary School and is represented on the SBE by Dr. Danny Varat.

Volunteers from this lakefront community give both their time and financial resources to a variety of A.R. Lewis school programs. They help fund the backpack program, which provides low-income students with a bag of healthy snacks to take home every Friday. Volunteers with a green thumb have spent numerous hours working in the school's gardens. The volunteers in the mentoring program are paired with a student who has social, emotional, academic, or home-life problems to tutor them in reading, math, and social behaviors. The mentors often go beyond the classroom to arrange for experiences and services to improve the lives of the students.

- Vernon Powell (Individual Category)

Vernon Powell, of Berkeley County, was nominated by Boulder Bluff Elementary and is represented on the SBE by Larry Kobrovsky. Mr. Powell, a grandfather of students at Boulder Bluff, mentors a third-grade student, volunteers in a kindergarten classroom four afternoons per week, runs the Positive Behavior store, and provides prizes for teachers to give students, just to name a few ways he volunteers. He is always the first to arrive to set up for school events and the last to leave after coordinating the clean up. For the school's biggest event, the Spring Carnival, Mr. Powell solicited enough donations to keep the cost of the carnival to almost nothing. When he learns of a need, he is always the first to volunteer.

- Richland Northeast High School's School Improvement Council (School Improvement Council Category)

Richland Northeast High School's School Improvement Council, in Richland School District Two, is represented on the SBE by Rose Sheheen. The Council developed and implemented the high school's "Core Values" campaign during the 2009–10 and 2010–11 school years. Students had the opportunity to win prizes for exemplifying the core values which included respect, responsibility, integrity, honesty, and community. The council also created the "Parent Update" publication and the new parent breakfast.

- Honorable Mention: Jan Davis-Vater (Individual Category)

The SBE Volunteer Awards Nominating Committee was so impressed by the depth of quality in the applications submitted for this awards program that they chose to issue an honorable mention for another applicant in the individual category. The honorable mention recipient is Jan Davis-Vater of Beaufort County, nominated by the Beaufort County School District office and represented on the SBE by Chair Thompson. For the past 11 years, Ms. Davis-Vater has served in a myriad of volunteer roles, including a variety of officer positions on the PTA and PTSO. She currently serves as the chair of the district's Foundation for Educational Excellence. Since 2009, the Foundation has awarded \$25,000 in grants to 74 teachers, funding innovative projects developed by teachers. Many of those who have worked with Jan commented on her willingness to roll up her sleeves to work on whatever projects came her way.

Chair Thompson thanked the members of the SBE Volunteer Awards Nominating Committee for their hard work and service on this committee.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rev. Thomas McClary, James Alston, Denise Davidson, and Randy Horton spoke concerning Jasper County schools. Jon Butzon spoke concerning Charleston County schools.

VII. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION STATEMENT

State Superintendent of Education Zais made the following statement concerning the process, the three options before us, and what he sees as the way ahead for the seven failing schools.

Since I began my public service as State Superintendent of Education, I have visited 114 schools in South Carolina. I've visited high-performing schools in some of South Carolina's most impoverished communities. I've visited some of the most innovative schools that are breaking new ground in the way they teach students. These are some of the exemplars in South Carolina education. I have also visited schools at the other extreme.

I have consistently said that "poor kids can learn" and "poverty is not an excuse for failure." Many highly successful schools in South Carolina are demographically, financially, and geographically identical to the schools that have appeared before us today. Let me be clear: these seven schools are not "at-risk." These schools are failing, and failing persistently. And, it's not the students who are failing in these schools. It's the adults on the boards, in the districts, and in the schools who are failing the children.

Today seven failing schools gave presentations before the State Board of Education. Under our state's Education Accountability Act, the Board's responsibility is to provide oversight and demand answers for the lack of student achievement in these schools.

Unfortunately, the Education Accountability Act provides only three options, all of which are far too limited. These options are:

1. Assume management of the school.
2. Replace the school's principal.
3. Provide technical assistance to these failing schools.

Option 1, assuming management of the school, has been tried and proven to be unsuccessful in its current form. The South Carolina Department of Education is not empowered to make sufficient changes in a school to turn it around. And the local community has in the past and will likely in the future resist any initiatives or directives coming out of Columbia. What we saw the last time was the community simply "waited out" the Department of Education, while student learning continued to suffer.

Option 2, replacing the school's principal, has some merit. Principals are enormously important to raising student achievement. Research has shown a highly effective principal can increase student performance on standardized tests by as much as 15 percent but a highly ineffective principal will lower student achievement by 15 percent. That is a 30 percent difference just based upon the effectiveness of the principal.

However, should we replace the principal in these cases, he or she will not have the ability to hire and fire teachers, which is essential to turn around a school. An appointed principal can run a school, but he or she cannot be effective without the support of the district. Frankly, there is little incentive for district administrators to work cooperatively with a principal appointed from Columbia when locally chosen principals are frequently hired and fired every year or two. In fact, it would be unfair to offer this principalship to someone when it is unlikely they would not receive the necessary district, board, and community support to make lasting, systemic change in a failing school. Therefore, regrettably, Option 2 is not likely to succeed in its current form either.

Option 3, providing technical assistance to the failing school, is the only remaining option. It is also the least effective option. South Carolina taxpayers have provided millions of dollars in technical assistance to these schools with little or nothing to show for it. But given the other two options are unlikely to succeed, it is the only remaining option available to the State Board of Education.

But that doesn't mean we can't increase the number of options available to turn around failing schools in South Carolina.

The option I strongly believe we should have is the option to transfer these schools to a special statewide school district. In Louisiana, such a school district exists. They call it the Recovery School District. Tennessee also has such a district. It's called the Achievement School District. These statewide school districts are separate from state education agencies and state boards of education. They have one primary mission: turn around failing schools.

As part of my proposal to modernize the Education Accountability Act, I will propose the creation of a new statewide school district, separate from the Department of Education. The purpose of this district will be to turn around failing schools wherever in South Carolina they may be.

This new district won't need new taxpayer dollars. We will repurpose existing funds to the new turn around district. The failing schools will be funded as they are today, with a mixture of local, state, and federal dollars. But the local school boards and local administrators who have failed these schools and their children won't have control over them. The turn around district will provide oversight of the schools, but the schools will be operated much like public charter schools. They will be held to the same state and federal accountability standards, but have the flexibility to innovate to meet the needs of their students. This model has

proven very effective in New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana, as well as in Tennessee.

More details will be released when my proposal for a modernized and unified accountability system is finalized this fall. There will be other parts of this new Education Accountability Act, such as letter grades for schools and school districts. Students receive letter grades; why shouldn't schools and districts. These are found in my request for flexibility from certain provisions of No Child Left Behind that is pending consideration by Secretary Arne Duncan and the U.S. Department of Education.

I want students and parents to know what the turn around district means for them.

In any organization, for people to be committed and involved, they must have ownership and responsibility for outcomes. That's why public charter schools hold so much promise: students and parents have a large degree of ownership and responsibility for the success of the school.

This turn around district will give parents and students trapped in a failing school the opportunity to transform their school. They won't have to wait for new leadership in their district office or wait for the election of new school board members. They will be empowered to make the changes needed to meet their unique requirements.

Today I wish I could recommend that these seven failing schools join the turn around district. Unfortunately, state law doesn't give me or the State Board of Education that option. But just because it isn't an option today doesn't mean it can't be an option tomorrow. I look forward to working with Governor Haley, the General Assembly, and many stakeholders to make the turnaround district a reality in South Carolina.

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

FOR APPROVAL

- 06. Approval of the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Heyward Gibbes Middle School in Richland County School District One**—Dr. Montrie Belton, Director, Office of School Transformation—Priority Schools, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Zais recommended that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Heyward Gibbes Middle School in Richland County School District One and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance.

Mr. Brennan moved that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Heyward Gibbes Middle School in Richland County School District One and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Disney. The motion carried.

07. **Approval of the Challenge to Achieve Plan for W.A. Perry Middle School in Richland County School District One**—Dr. Montrio Belton, Director, Office of School Transformation–Priority Schools, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Zais recommended that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for W.A. Perry Middle School in Richland County School District One and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance with the following recommendations for revision of the plan:

- Richland County School District One develops a systemic and sustainable plan to measure teacher effectiveness at W.A. Perry Middle School that is linked to student achievement. This mechanism should provide data with which employment and/or compensation decisions can be made.

Until such time that a revised plan with this recommendation is submitted to and approved by the Office of School Transformation, no technical assistance money shall be allocated to W.A. Perry Middle School for the 2012–13 academic year.

Dr. Blackmon moved that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for W. A. Perry Middle School in Richland County School District One and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Griffith.

Mrs. James asked about the process for a revised plan and whether it has to come back before the SBE or if the motion will allow it to be effective immediately as soon as it is approved. Dr. Belton stated that the plan does not have to come back before the SBE. Chair Thompson asked for clarification on the dollars used for technical assistance. Dr. Belton answered that the school will work with his office to get an approval plan, and he will work with Dr. Zais to determine whether the plan is acceptable. If so, the money will then be allocated for technical assistance.

Mrs. Sheheen asked Dr. Percy Mack, Superintendent for Richland County School District One, to comment on the recommendation. Dr. Mack stated that Richland One will work with Dr. Belton's office to the best of their ability in order to produce an approved plan.

Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion carried.

01. **Approval of the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Allendale-Fairfax Middle School in Allendale County Schools**—Dr. Montrio Belton, Director, Office of School Transformation–Priority Schools, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Zais recommended that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Allendale-Fairfax Middle School in the Allendale County School District and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance.

Mr. Rampey moved that the SBE approve the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Allendale-Fairfax Middle School in Allendale County and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sheheen. The motion carried.

02. Approval of the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Burke High School (Middle) in Charleston County School District—Dr. Montrio Belton, Director, Office of School Transformation—Priority Schools, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Zais recommended that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Burke High/Middle School in the Charleston County School District and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance with the following recommendations for revision of the plan:

- Charleston County School District develops a systemic and sustainable plan to measure teacher effectiveness at Burke High/Middle School that is linked to student achievement. This mechanism should provide data with which employment and/or compensation decisions can be made, and
- Burke High School/Middle develops “quantifiable” measurable outcomes for each of the nine reform strategies (dimensions).

Until such time that a revised plan with these recommendations is submitted to and approved by the Office of School Transformation, no technical assistance money shall be allocated to Burke High School/Middle for the 2012–13 academic year.

Mr. Kobrovsky moved that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Burke High/Middle School in the Charleston County School District and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bolen.

Mrs. Sheheen asked Dr. Nancy McGinley, Superintendent for Charleston County School District, to comment on the recommendation. Dr. McGinley stated that her understanding was that the quantitative goals were submitted to Dr. Belton’s office, and she will work with Dr. Belton to be sure that what was submitted is acceptable. Also, Dr. McGinley questioned whether the system in place for the school improvement grant at Burke High/Middle School linking teacher performance to compensation is deemed to be not sufficient. Dr. Zais commented that the SCDE did not see it in the school’s plan. Dr. McGinley thanked Dr. Zais for the clarification and stated that if it was not in the dimensions submitted, it will be revised accordingly.

Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion carried.

03. Approval of the Challenge to Achieve Plan for North Charleston High School in Charleston County School District—Dr. Montrio Belton, Director, Office of School Transformation–Priority Schools, Division of School Effectiveness

As a point of clarification, Dr. Belton stated that he received a new plan from North Charleston High School this morning. However, he said he has not had time to read the plan yet nor make copies for the SBE. Chair Thompson stated that the SBE will hear the current plan and will review the new plan at a later time.

Dr. Zais recommended that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for North Charleston High School in the Charleston County School District and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance with the following recommendations for revision of the plan:

- Charleston County School District develops a systemic and sustainable plan to measure teacher effectiveness at North Charleston High School that is linked to student achievement. This mechanism should provide data with which employment and/or compensation decisions can be made, and
- North Charleston High School develops “quantifiable” measurable outcomes for each of the nine reform strategies (dimensions).

Until such time that a revised plan with these recommendations is submitted to and approved by the Office of School Transformation, no technical assistance money shall be allocated to North Charleston High School for the 2012–13 academic year.

Mr. Kobrovsky moved that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for North Charleston High School in the Charleston County School District and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shortt.

Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion carried.

Mrs. James requested that the SBE receive a copy of the revised plan, and Dr. Zais stated the SBE will be sent a copy. Also, Mrs. Sheheen requested that a report concerning the plans be presented to the SBE in the August 2012 meeting.

04. Approval of the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Ridgeland Middle School in Jasper County School District—Dr. Montrio Belton, Director, Office of School Transformation–Priority Schools, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Zais recommended that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Ridgeland Middle School in the Jasper County School District and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance.

Mrs. James moved that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Ridgeland Middle School in the Jasper County School District and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bolen.

Mr. Willis asked about how the technical assistance dollars will be appropriated. Dr. Zais stated that this is a local school board decision; he has made suggestions but cannot make any directives regarding these expenditures.

Mr. Brennan commented that he reviewed Jasper County's plan and clarified it includes nothing relative to the consolidation issue; this is a district issue and would be a local decision.

Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion carried with one abstention by Dr. Longshore.

05. Approval of the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Lee Central Middle School in Lee County School District—Dr. Montrio Belton, Director, Office of School Transformation—Priority Schools, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Zais recommended that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Lee Central Middle School in Lee County and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance with the following recommendation for revision of the plan:

- Lee County School District develops a systemic and sustainable plan to measure teacher effectiveness at Lee Central Middle School that is linked to student achievement. This mechanism should provide data with which employment and/or compensation decisions can be made, and
- Until such time that a revised plan with these recommendations is submitted to and approved by the Office of School Transformation, no technical assistance money shall be allocated to Lee Central Middle School for the 2012–13 academic year.

Mr. Griffith moved that the SBE accept the Challenge to Achieve Plan for Lee Central Middle School in the Lee County School District and that the SCDE continue to furnish advice and technical assistance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rampey.

Mrs. Sheheen asked Dr. Cleo Richardson, Superintendent for Lee County School District, to comment on the recommendation. Dr. Richardson stated that the Lee County School District will work to revise the plan according to Dr. Zais's recommendations.

Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion carried.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—Dr. David Longshore, Chair

Dr. David Longshore stated that the agenda was revised in committee to change the **2012 South Carolina Educator Evaluation and Support Guidelines** item from an action item to an information item.

Dr. Longshore gave an overview of the action items placed on the consent agenda as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed Praxis II Pass Score Amendments (First Reading)**—Don Stowe, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness
02. **Adopt Passing Scores for New Praxis Examinations in Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments, Special Education: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities, Professional School Counselor, and Chinese (Mandarin) World Language (First Reading)**—Bill Billingsley, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness
03. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations for Unit Accreditation Decisions for the Educator Preparation Units at Newberry College, Coastal Carolina University, and Winthrop University**—Don Stowe, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness
04. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendation for State Accreditation of the Educator Preparation Unit at Wofford College**—Don Stowe, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness
05. **Revised Standards, Policies, and Procedures for South Carolina Educator Preparation Units (First Reading)**—Don Stowe, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness
06. **Recommendation to Appoint Four New Members to the Professional Review Committee (PRC)**—Don Stowe, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Longshore stated that the agenda was revised in committee to include the following action item to be presented to the SBE for approval.

07. Resolution Commending Mark Bounds

Dr. Longshore read a proposed resolution commending Mark Bounds, former Deputy Superintendent for the Division of School Effectiveness, for his service to the SBE, the SCDE, and the children of South Carolina.

Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion carried.

Mr. Brennan inquired about the transfer of job duties after Mr. Bounds left the SCDE. Dr. Zais answered that Charmeka Bosket will assume responsibility for the Division of School Effectiveness. Some of the duties Ms. Bosket had in the Office of Policy have been redistributed. The duties for supervision and coordination with the SBE will be handled by the Office of Legislative & Public Affairs, and Jay W. Ragley and Laura Bayne will serve as the point of contact for the SBE. Also, Cindy Clark will continue to provide administrative support for the SBE.

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE

Committee Report—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair

Dr. Blackmon reported that the IF Committee did not meet this morning as planned due to time limitations. The Committee's items will be addressed in the August SBE meeting. Dr. Blackmon stated that he is pleased to report that the SBE completed the fiscal year 2011–12 in the black. There are still one or two encumbrances with teacher hearings, but not having a June meeting contributed to a positive operational budget. The 2012–13 budget reflects restored funds, which had been reduced during the recession, to the funding level of 2008 as the SBE requested.

Chair Thompson thanked Dr. Blackmon for a good report and reminded the SBE members to thank those at the Statehouse responsible for restoring funds.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dru James, Chair

FOR INFORMATION

01. Common Core Standards Update—Catherine Jones-Stork, Team Leader, Office of Teacher Effectiveness, Division of School Effectiveness

Mrs. James stated that the Common Core Standards Update was given in committee by Catherine Jones-Stork. Ms. Jones-Stork discussed the series of professional development institutes that have been going on this summer with the Common Core Standards.

02. Common Core Assessment Update—Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability

Mrs. James reported that South Carolina is now a governing member of Smarter Balanced so South Carolina now has a vote as decisions are made by all the states. We are eligible for pilot testing as early as Spring 2013. The IT Readiness Survey was developed to determine the schools' readiness to administer the assessments online. The survey was sent to the schools within the Smarter and PARCC states. Sixty-one percent of the schools in South Carolina responded to the surveys; we were told that we had the best response rate of any other state. The information will provide the results and will guide the criteria for computer demand. The survey will go out again a few more times before a final report is given.

Dr. Zais stated that one of the reasons we are now a governing state is that Mr. Brennan talked to Governor Nikki Haley (Governor) and recommended she sign the letter. Also, Mr. Ragley laid the groundwork with the Governor's staff. Dr. Zais said that whether or not he agrees with the Common Core Standards is irrelevant; it is the law of the land and it is his responsibility to execute to the best of his ability. So, he also asked the Governor to sign the letter so that South Carolina can become a governing state.

Chair Thompson thanked Dr. Zais and all who participated in getting the Governor to sign the letter for this effort. He recognized that a lot of work was put into this cause, and it will be very beneficial to the students of South Carolina.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved in committee and placed on the Consent Agenda.

Education Professions (EP)

01. **Proposed Praxis II Pass Score Amendments (First Reading)**
02. **Adopt Passing Scores for New Praxis Examinations in Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments, Special Education: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities, Professional School Counselor, and Chinese (Mandarin) World Language (First Reading)**
03. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations for Unit Accreditation Decisions for the Educator Preparation Units at Newberry College, Coastal Carolina University, and Winthrop University**
04. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendation for State Accreditation of the Educator Preparation Unit at Wofford College**
05. **Revised Standards, Policies, and Procedures for South Carolina Educator Preparation Units (First Reading)**

06. Recommendation to Appoint Four New Members to the Professional Review Committee (PRC)

Mrs. James requested a point of order and stated that the PL Committee items were reflected on the consent agenda in error. Mr. Blackmon moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Griffith. The motion carried.

X. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS

Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Mr. Ragley reported that the General Assembly (GA) provided a significant increase in funding for teacher salaries. He pointed out some highlights of the budget proviso regarding teacher salaries—one being that teachers will receive at least a 2 percent raise through an increase in the statewide minimum salary schedule. The SCDE runs those calculations and provides that information to the school districts. The GA also requires the districts to provide every eligible teacher at least a one step increase. But, the districts have been given the option to apply for a waiver from the SBE for the step increase. However, a school district shall not be granted a waiver from providing a step increase if the incurred deficit is a result of granting salary increases to employees beyond those paid on the teacher salary schedule. Since the SBE will need to deal with this issue by September 1, 2012, the school districts will need to get their waivers to the SBE for the August meeting.. If there are requests for waivers, the SCDE will get that information to the SBE members as soon as they are received.

Mr. Brennan asked if the SBE has received any waivers requests yet. Mr. Ragley said that to his knowledge the SCDE has not received any waiver requests at this time. Mrs. James asked if this was one of the items the Governor vetoed, and Mr. Ragley stated that it is not one of those items. Mr. Ragley said this is a different item than what was in the budget passed by the GA; a teacher pay raise was split into two pots—one a recurring line item (\$38 million) and one a non-recurring line item (\$10 million). The Governor's veto message was that it is bad budgeting to use one-time money for recurring expenses.

Mrs. James asked what the effect would be if the money allocated for teacher raises is decreased if the veto is not overridden. Mr. Ragley said that if the \$10 million in non-recurring state revenue is not there, the districts will have to come up with the remainder. The SCDE has provided a distribution to the school districts with information concerning what it looks like with the \$38 million and what it looks like with the full \$48 million. The districts also have \$152 million of Education Finance Act (EFA) money coming. If the veto is sustained, the SCDE will work with the districts to further explain the situation, but it will ultimately come out of some other pot of money because districts are required to comply with a 2 percent minimum salary increase and a step increase. The 2 percent is the \$48 million. The step increases are paid by the local school districts. Dr. Zais stated that compared to last year the school districts are receiving an additional \$404 million.

Mrs. James asked about the possibility of an increase in the number of waiver applications if there is no \$10 million. Mr. Ragley said he cannot predict what the outcome will be, but he clarified

that the waiver is because of the step increase, not the 2 percent salary increase. Mr. Griffith asked what will happen next year when there are no step funds. Mr. Ragley stated that some districts have suspended step increases for two years. If they suspend it again for a third year and get two or three steps behind, to catch up would be difficult. This is why there is a teacher salary study committee comprised of legislators that will try to come up with a plan to get back to “normal” school finances. Mr. Griffith asked that the SBE be given a list that shows the step-increase status of each district, and Mr. Ragley said the 2011–12 list will be provided today.

Dr. Longshore commented that the districts tend to balance the budget on the backs of the people who make the least money. Mr. Ragley said there was an earlier proviso that required a 2 percent increase be given to non-teaching, non-district headquarters staff. There was a lot of discussion about compensation for school employees who are in this category.

Mrs. James asked if there was a proviso on the next-generation standards, and Mr. Ragley stated that there were two provisos: one concerning general funds and one for Education Improvement Act funds. The proviso states that the SBE, the SCDE, and the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) shall not use any funds to adopt, participate in, implement, or promote the next-generation science standards. Mr. Ragley added that this law is in effect for reviewing the science standards.

Ms. Bosket added that the next-generation science standards draft was released in April 2012 and is publicly available. This was an information item shared with the SBE in January 2012. The process continues with a projection that the SBE will likely be ready to adopt new standards by December 2013. This timeline continues. The proviso limits the SCDE from adopting the next-generation science standards.

Dr. Zais added that there is a national organization that evaluates standards. Six states have been rated “A” or “A-” in their science standards, and South Carolina was one of those six. South Carolina has pretty good science standards so this is not an issue.

Mr. Brennan commented that he understands there is a veto relative to the EOC and asked what the impact would be. Mr. Ragley said there were a couple of EOC provisos that were vetoed; one dealt with something related to an education incubator where the proponents would like to take the highest performing schools in the state (those having a 95 percent graduation rate or higher) and put them into an incubator or protected space where it would innovate. Mr. Ragley stated that we have a provision for that, and it is called a charter school. The schools that have less than 50 percent graduation rates are the schools that need the most innovation. That proviso was vetoed at the request of Dr. Zais because it is looking at the problem in the wrong way. Also, on the Senate floor, money was put in for the EOC to do school district efficiency studies, and the EOC admitted it does not have the staff to do that but planned to contract it out for about \$300,000. It is interesting because in the proviso about efficiency studies, it states that the EOC is not to look at academic performance in these schools, which contradicts the mission of the EOC (holding schools accountable). The EOC is also prohibited by law from looking at the financial practices of school districts. So, the efficiency study proviso and the funding was vetoed. Mr. Ragley added that the EOC informed him, by letter, that if both vetoes were sustained, it would not affect their core operation. Dr. Zais stated that his perspective is that the EOC is in search of a mission. It is not part of their charter to be starting innovation zones or to go in and inspect the operation of schools across the state.

Mr. Kobrovsky asked if the step increase provision is discretionary or if the buck stops if the SBE rejects them. Mr. Ragley referred to the verbiage and stated that it clearly states that the districts have to give a one step increase and that it speaks clearly about those not on a teacher salary schedule. He stated that only a deficit incurred by giving raises to employees beyond what was paid on the teacher-salary schedule would be the reason to deny a waiver.

Dr. Shortt asked Mr. Ragley if he had any idea why the legislators decided that waiver requests should come before the SBE when it is a local decision. Mr. Ragley said that he was not involved in the drafting process, but there were folks who wanted a waiver process. They felt like the SBE was most appropriate since the SBE can give waivers for other parts of policy.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 5:20 p.m.